



THE IMPORTANCE OF ANIMALS IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND IN THE FUNCTIONING OF NATURAL SYSTEMS

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Annotation

This article discusses animals that are not only part of natural systems, but also have great economic and economic importance. Wild animals and the results of their activities are used in various sectors of the economy.

Keywords. Animals, organic substances, landscape, productivity, degree of herbage, ecosystem, natural systems, vital activity.

Introduction

Animals play a huge role in the natural development cycles of many plants, as well as in the formation of plant communities, phytocenoses. The role of animals in the geographical shell is very diverse. Their vital activity is important not only for the existence of the biosphere as a whole and its individual ecosystems, but also for the formation and development of territorial and water complexes. Animals are an integral part of landscapes, ensuring their normal functioning. For example, the formation of soils and their fertility is largely ensured by the activity of animals: worms, ants, termites, vertebrates and swarms. They decompose plant waste, participate in soil structuring, provide gas exchange between the atmosphere and the soil, enrich the soil with organic substances, increase their borehole and water capacity, improve aeration properties, create favorable conditions for the development of various soil microorganisms. Myriads of insects, dying, bring a variety of trace elements into the soil.

The area of distribution of many plants is also associated with animal activity. Birds carry seeds over very long distances. For example, cedar promotes the settlement of cedar in huge areas of Siberia. The digging activity of rodents - shrews contributes to the expansion of forests in the forest-steppe.

In steppes, prairies and deserts, natural vegetation develops in close interaction with herbivores. In the steppes and prairies, they prevent the accumulation of an excessively large amount of dead grass mass and thereby help the accelerated growth of grasses, their processing and re-regrowth. In addition, animals enrich the soils of the steppes with organic substances. In general, the activity of wild animals increases the productivity of steppe grass. A decrease in their number inevitably causes significant changes in the composition of the vegetation cover and its productivity. For example, in a number of large areas of the Karakum Desert, the number of gazelles and saigas of the desert has sharply decreased over the past decade. Due to the lack of wells, sheep are not grazed here. As a result, such areas are overgrown with desert moss. Moss oppresses and destroys sedge, saxaul and shrubs. It intercepts about half of the scarce precipitation and causes the death of all forage plants. Thus, a decrease in the number of wild ungulates leads to a change in desert ecosystems, a decrease in the area of potential pastures.



To maintain the normal biological condition of the Karakum pasture lands, it is necessary to increase the number of gazelles and saigas.

Animals are a necessary component of landscapes. But their impact on natural complexes is manifested mainly through vegetation and soils.

Animals are not only part of natural systems, but also have great economic and economic importance. Wild animals and the results of their activities are used in various sectors of the economy. Many animal waste products are used as raw materials for industry. These include reserves of chalk, limestone, some silts, saltpeter (formed in arid areas as a result of bacterial activity).

Wild animals are widely used for domestication. Many animals and birds are now bred on special farms and in animal farms. For example, ostriches are bred in Africa and Australia, crocodiles are bred in the USA and Cuba, many fur-bearing animals are raised in Northern Europe – sable, mink, arctic fox, rabbit, fox, etc. On farms in Norway, Canada and Alaska, musk oxen are bred, which give delicious meat, skins and very valuable down. In Sri Lanka, elephants serve as draft animals. In a number of countries around the world (Japan, France, USA, etc.), marine oyster farms have been established.

Each animal species is an irreplaceable carrier of the genetic fund. Wild fauna is increasingly being used to form new and improve existing breeds of domestic animals. For example, by crossing moufflon bulls with merino sheep, a new, more productive breed of sheep was bred in Askania Nova. As a result of crossing bison with domestic cows in Canada, it was possible to obtain a breed of animals successfully acclimatized in the pastures of the northern regions of the country. Works of this kind are carried out not only in relation to livestock, but also some insects (bees) and fish.

The importance of wildlife for recreational purposes increases every year.

The living conditions of animals have been changing especially intensively in recent decades in connection with the unfolding of the scientific and technological revolution. If in the past anthropogenic changes in natural conditions had the greatest impact on large mammals and birds, now they are increasingly affecting the life of protozoa and invertebrates. The most significant changes in the conditions of their existence are associated with the intensification of agriculture.

Nowadays, the importance of animals as objects of photo hunting and sightseeing observations is increasing more and more. Millions of people from all over the world visit national parks to admire animals and birds in their natural surroundings.

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